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From the Editors

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From the Editors

Providing advice on the mechanical aspects of the practice of law is not the role of a law review. Our concern is mainly with theory, for in the final analysis abstract ideas are the basis for solving the hard, concrete cases with which lawyers deal.

Legal problems are so diverse that almost any information may ultimately be useful in their solution. For that reason, and because those who choose the Law as their profession must be interested in many things, the *Review* will treat a variety of subjects this year.

Society's institutions are always the concern of the Law and this indicates that lawyers are social engineers of the first magnitude. "American society . . . as critics have pointed out ever since de Tocqueville, goes further than any other society in translating political issues into legal questions and expecting courts and lawyers to solve them."¹ Though our profession and its interests are still largely court-oriented, certainly the emphasis is shifting to other institutions and their functions and value in the social order. As an academic publication the *Nebraska Law Review* is well situated to take a long view of the role men of the Law play in our society, to describe the workings of our institutions, to criticize and suggest change.

The legal process viewed broadly is simply a tool to solve society's problems, and the legal practitioner is the skilled technician who operates this complex process. When the practice of law is viewed in this context its spectrum becomes as broad as the field of human endeavor. Attorneys' opinions are sought on every question and their influence is widely felt. This universality of the lawyer's thinking places great power in his hands, and where power is seated responsibility must also rest. The Bar has accepted these responsibilities; its members have long provided leadership for their community and nation.

This is not the place to speculate about whether the attorney's activity in his society is a cause or an effect of his curiosity concerning its problems. We know that the legal profession is interested in these issues and will continue to be. Consequently, volume fifty of the *Nebraska Law Review* will provide a forum to present new ideas on matters of current interest to lawyers. Our goal is to stimulate creative thought about law and society. In this way we can help assume those responsibilities which are the legal profession's legacy.

¹ H. STEINER & D. VAGTS, *TRANSNATIONAL LEGAL PROBLEMS* 141 (1968).